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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Alain FORESTIÈRE et al. : Examiner: Unassigned

Serial No.: Unassigned : Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: August 16, 2001 :

For: MATERIALS COMPRISING ORGANIC PHOSPHOROUS-CONTAINING GROUPS
BONDED TO A MINERAL OXIDE VIA OXYGEN ATOMS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants wish to amend the above-identified application as indicated below:

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the existing abstract and replace with the attached Abstract of the Disclosure.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3-9 and 12-15 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (Amended) A process for preparing a functionalized material according to claim 1, comprising contacting a suspension in a liquid of at least one mineral oxide of an element M with at least one solution in a solvent of at least one phosphorous-containing compound with formula I:

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